

Two people are standing on a busy corner of a downtown street in a foreign capital.

Both are dressed in raincoats. Nothing about them is out of the ordinary—except what they are doing.

One—a man—reaches into his pocket and pulls out an envelope stuffed with U.S. dollars. He gives the envelope to the other person—a woman.

The two leave. No one notices anything unusual about their casual meeting.

The man works for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the major spying organization of the U.S. Government.

The woman is a citizen of the country where the two have met.

The woman opposes the government in power in her country. She is working to replace it with another more favorable to her political views.

The CIA agent, representing the U.S., has given money to help her in her work. The money will be used in many ways—to buy guns and ammunition, to hire antigovernment protesters, to print political posters.

The hoped-for gain by the U.S. will be a more friendly government in power.

Should this kind of U.S. meddling in the political affairs of other nations be going on? Would we want other nations meddling in our politics in this way?

These are important questions in our country today.

Some people think the CIA



George Bush, new CIA director, is shown (left) at his swearing-in. With him is former director, William Colby.

has gone too far. They want to limit its activities to spying (gathering information secretly in other countries).

Others, including President Ford, believe the CIA may have gone too far in the past. But these people want the agency to continue covert (secret) operations in other countries so that the U.S. will benefit.

Their argument is that Communist countries—especially the Soviet Union—work actively overseas to promote communism. The U.S., they say, must do the same to keep its democratic ideals alive in the world.

Very few critics want to abolish the CIA.

For nearly 30 years the U.S.

has secretly helped foreign governments friendly to the U.S. We have helped friendly leaders stay in power. And we have also helped them gain power.

Most of this work has been done through the CIA. Here are some examples:

—In the early 1950's the CIA helped Ramón Magsaysay (inag-SIGH-sigh) defeat Communist guerrillas in the Philippines. Magsaysay became a popular hero and was elected president of the Philippines.

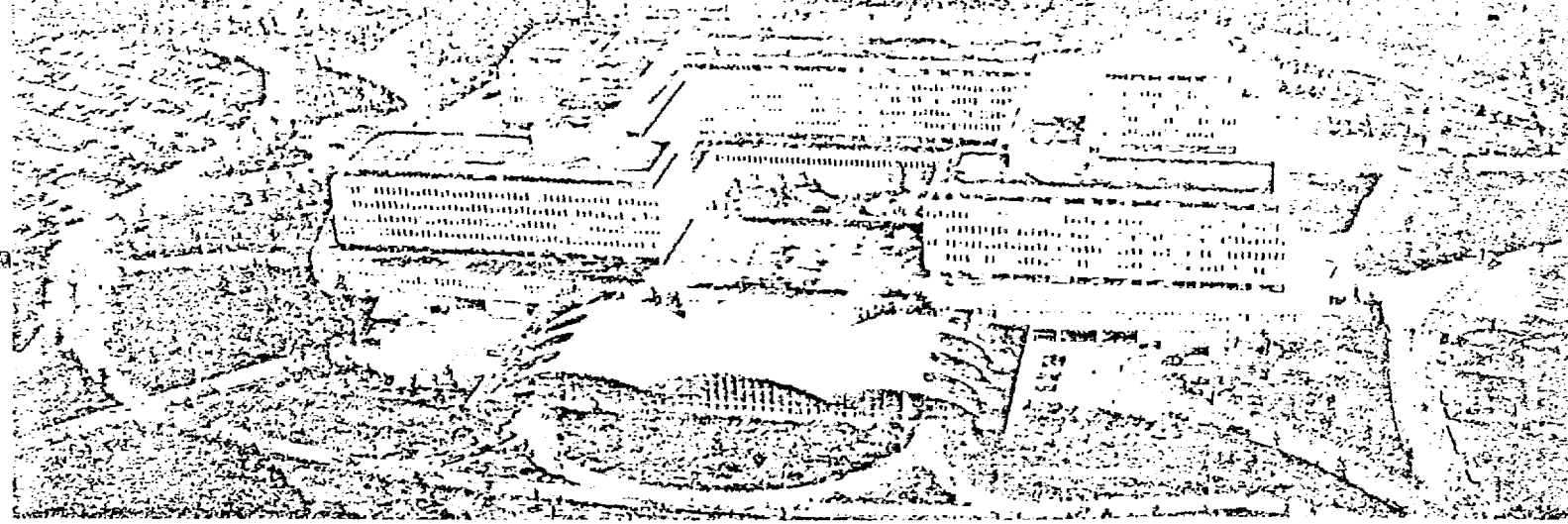
—In 1953 the CIA organized opposition to an unfriendly government in Iran and helped the present Shah (king) regain his throne. Later a contract was signed between U.S. oil companies and Iran that gave the U.S. companies a larger share of oil profits.

—In 1954 the CIA worked successfully to overthrow a Communist government in Guatemala, a country just south of Mexico. President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved this action.

—In 1961 the CIA organized anti-Castro Cubans for an invasion of their homeland. This action—known as the Bay of Pigs operation—failed.

DETAILS of these and other CIA covert political activities have become public largely because of two congressional investigations.

It is now known, for example, that the CIA discussed plans for assassinating certain national leaders—including Fidel Castro of Cuba. All these leaders except



--Wide World

Sprawling CIA headquarters is located in Langley, Va., near Washington, D.C. Unauthorized visitors are not welcome.

Castro actually were assassinated.

Recent hearings produced no evidence that the CIA played a direct role in these killings, however.

About one-third of the agency's covert activities involve giving money to foreign political parties or government leaders.

Since 1947 the U.S. has given \$75 million to political parties and their candidates in Italy, for example. The purpose has been to keep friends in high places in Italy—an important military ally of the U.S.

THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE of the CIA was to gather information about other nations and their plans.

Using this information, our Government can then make more intelligent plans for its own diplomatic moves and national defense.

The CIA gathers information from many sources. The sources include camera-carrying satellites high in space, spies in other countries, and coded radio messages.

But even in its spying role the CIA has had its troubles.

According to congressional investigators the CIA failed to predict a number of important world events. They include
---North Vietnam's Tet offensive

in January of 1967.

—The 1973 war in the Middle East.

—The military takeover and revolution in Portugal.

—The troubles in Cyprus that led to Turkish occupation of part of this Mediterranean island.

—The 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

—India's first test of an atomic bomb in 1974.

Such failures caused Rep. Otis Pike (D-N.Y.) to say:

"If an attack were to be launched against America in the future, it is my belief that America would not know that the attack was about to be launched."

Congressman Pike headed a House committee investigating CIA activities.

SOME CONGRESSMEN believe the CIA should work harder at information-gathering and stop covert operations (meddling).

One of them is Sen. Walter Mondale (D Minn.). He has said:

"It is incredible that we sought to dictate the course of other societies in a way we would never permit them to dictate the course of our society."

President Ford believes that operations.

"I am informed," he has said, "that the Communist nations spend vastly more money than we do for the same kind of purposes."

What are your views? Should CIA activities be cut back to information-gathering or should the CIA remain an active force in the affairs of other nations?

Or is there another solution to the CIA problem?

Send us your opinion in a letter addressed to Letters Editor, *Current Events*, 245 Long Hill Road, Middletown, CT 06457.

LEARNING KEY WORDS

- ___ 1. Dictate
- ___ 2. Intelligence-gathering
- ___ 3. Covert
- ___ 4. Abolish
- ___ 5. Ally

- a. secret
- b. information-collecting
- c. a country pledged to help your country in time of trouble
- d. order something to happen
- e. do away with completely

TALK IT OVER

Almost all Americans believe the U.S. should have some kind of overseas information-gathering agency. Can you explain why?

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CIA Should Not
Meddle in Other
Countries' Affairs

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The U.S. Debates the Future Of Its Superspy Agency

CIA



—Graham Arden, as Quetta, Little Rock

"Password's the same—Meddle!"